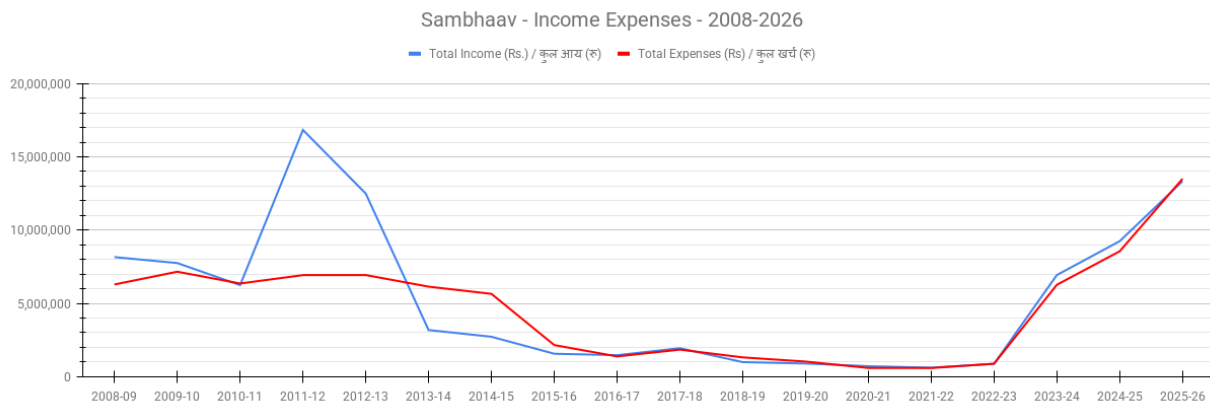


Overall my time in 2025-26, has gone towards the following regions and areas of work:

- Building Native seed conservation / Agrobiodiversity networks in India, and western India in particular. This has involved:
 - Continuing to take responsibility for conserving 300 landraces in Dungarpur, from Vrihi Basudha's paddy collection of 1400 landraces (<https://cintdis.org/vrihi/>). Vrihi is Asia's largest seed bank of native paddy landraces. More information about this effort is available here: <https://vimeo.com/1078366025/a5b7964c0f?share=copy>. We are one of just 20+ seed conservation organisations from across India involved in this effort, also mentioned in this video. This has involved conserving the varieties on farm from nursery to transplanting to maintaining varietal purity to harvest and finally to record the distinctive characteristics of each variety. This was the 2nd year of conservation work, which started in 2024-25.
 - Likewise, we are one of about 10 organisations across India, conserving nearly 50 wheat landraces, 5 barley varieties and 15 bengal gram varieties, as part of the Heritage Wheat and Folk Seed Keepers Alliance. As in paddy, the work involved growing the varieties on farm, maintaining varietal purity and finally to record the distinctive characteristics of each variety. Again this was the 2nd year of conservation work, which started in 2024-25.
 - As earlier, I have continued to support seed conservation networks and organisations across India. Basudha (<https://cintdis.org/basudha/>) has been an important initiative I have contributed to, where I have helped build a volunteer support network who will support Basudha with human and financial resources. I also supported Basudha's Agroecology courses in Oct-Nov 2025: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10224410323843952&type=3>
 - Sampark, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, is another important seed conservation initiative I have supported and helped raise funds for, from the Bharat Agroecology Fund (<https://bharatagroecologyfund.org/round-4/>): Upscaling adoption of Indigenous Seeds to 1000 Adivasi Bhil Farmers in Jhabua District (Malwa Plateau region) in Madhya Pradesh)
 - Apart from Basudha and Sampark - OOO Farms Rajkot, Prem Samriddhi Foundation Bundi, Banyan Roots Udaipur, Cohesion Foundation Navsari, Suresh Dahiya ji Satna, Bhairab Saini ji Bankura, Soumik Banerjee Balaghat, were important partners in seed conservation efforts this year.
- Promoting Agroecology Education across India:
 - Conducted a second batch of a Course on Agroecology for 34 participants from across India, in partnership with Welthungerhilfe and other partners from across India. More information is available here: <https://foodsystemsmultiversity.org/>. In this second edition of the Course, I also facilitated sessions on Indian Agrarian Policies and Farmer Producer Collectives and Cooperatives.
- Supported Sambhaav in the following programmes/themes of work:
 - This year, the following programmes continued:

- On water and soil conservation with support from AJWS in Jaisalmer and Barmer. This involved building around 28 khadeens (surface water-based agricultural systems) and beris (groundwater systems) for Adivasi Bhil (ST) and Koli (SC) communities in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. This work started in 2023 and has continued for 3 years.
- On agroecology in Jaisalmer and Alwar with support from Bharat Agroecology Fund. This involved helping about 400 farmers transition to ecological agriculture in Alwar and Jaisalmer districts. This work started in 2024-25 and has now continued for 1 more year in 2025-26. More information at: <https://bharatagroecologyfund.org/round-2/> - Establishing models of agroecological food production systems with small farmers, contextualised to the Thar Desert and Aravalli eco-regions in Rajasthan.
- Ecological restoration in Government schools in central (Jaipur & Ajmer) and eastern Rajasthan (Alwar & Dausa) with support from Asha for Education. This has been reported separately in-depth: ashanet.org/project/?pid=1348.
- Two new programmes were initiated in 2025-26 - On agrobiodiversity conservation in Dungarpur with support from Paul Hamlyn Foundation (<https://www.phf.org.uk/news-and-publications/grantsawarded-2024-25> under India) which built on the preparatory work done between 2020-25 and on Agroecology and Food Systems education with support from Welthungerhilfe (<https://foodsystemsmultiversity.org/>) which built on the preparatory work done in 2020-25.
- As of March 2026, Sambhaav has completed 3 full years of its revival, after a 9-year hiatus from 2014-23. This graph explains the organisational revival achieved, after I took over the responsibility of Sambhaav from 01 Aug 2022.



- Building the Internships programme within Sambhaav:
 - Internships have been a strong focus in 2025-26, where we have now built tie-ups with 9 colleges/universities across India and engaged about 26 interns for periods ranging from 4 to 12 weeks. This has involved spending time and effort mentoring interns and immersing them in our on-ground work.

- Our goal is to engage and immerse young people in our work related to Nature and Culture, on and off the ground, to build a pool of talent from within the interns to build and extend Sambhaav's work further, and finally to support and extend the work of our teams and get some work done. We plan to reach out to 40-50 colleges/universities, build engagements with about 20 colleges in all, in another year's time, and engage about 50-60 students a year.
- The following is a full list of internships completed:

College/University	Number of Students	Topics
Fergusson College Pune 6 weeks	2 in Jaisalmer Aadit, Hrishi	Hydrogeology studies of Jaisalmer
Food Systems / Agroecology Multiversity 4 weeks	3 in Jaisalmer - Pushpa, Shariqa, Aashish 3 in Dungarpur - Surbhi, Monika, Abhishek Total 6	Range of tasks related to Ecological agriculture / Food in Jaisalmer and Dungarpur
Shiv Nadar University New Delhi 12 weeks	1 in Jaisalmer (1 terminated mid-way) - Nitin 2 in Dungarpur - Sunny, Jaya	Soil and farm health survey of Khadeens / Farms of Jaisalmer Agro-biodiversity survey of Dungarpur Food cultures documentation of Dungarpur
KRVIA Mumbai 4 weeks	1 (Online) - Prachi	Georeferencing of toposheets of Rajasthan

College/University	Number of Students	Topics
Azim Premji University Bhopal 6 weeks	3 in Dungarpur (1 terminated mid-way) - Jyotiraj, Nitish, Vikas 1 each in Barmer and Jaisalmer and 2 in Jaipur - Jyoti, Ashish, Payal, Neha	Biodiversity survey of forests in Dungarpur Characterisation of native paddy landraces as per PPVFRA formats. Design of play-activity based ecological education modules and their implementation in Govt schools of Jaipur, Jaisalmer and Barmer
Azim Premji University Bangalore 6 weeks	1 in Dungarpur - Rohit	Soil and Farm Health survey of Farms of Dungarpur
School for Environment and Architecture Mumbai 1 week	40 in Dungarpur	Settlement study and mapping of a village in Dungarpur including its landscapes.
IIT Delhi 6 weeks	1 in Barmer - Shashank 1 in Jaisalmer - Ajay	Food cultures documentation of Barmer AV documentation of Khadeens made over the last 3 years and interviews with farmers
Ashoka University Delhi 6 weeks	4 in Dungarpur - Trisha, Pratyush, Santosh, Sanyam	Organic / natural foods market study in western India
9 Colleges/Universities	24/26 interns for 4-12 weeks 40 interns for 1 week Total 66 interns	

- Events: Major events we participated in this year included the Kisan Swaraj Sammelan at Palanpur Gujarat in January 2026, where I helped with organisation and facilitating sessions

(<https://kisanswaraj.in/wp-content/uploads/KSS2026-Lokniketan-Schedule-English-Ver-FINAL.pdf>) and the Beejotsav at Nagpur (<https://beejotsav.org/>) in March 2026. At both these public events, we displayed about 200+ varieties of native seeds that we have gathered and conserved over the last few years to the general public.

- Some photos of work from 2025-26: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NgySoiVGansJiHno8>